

## Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CPR-02

SAM-01 PRS-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 /054 W

----- 097407

O 141713Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3008

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

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DEPT FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM AMBASSADOR

BRASILIA FOR MRS. NIXON

QUITO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS OF MRS. NIXON'S OFFICIAL VISIT

1. IT IS MY PLEASURE TO REPORT THAT MRS. NIXON'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO VENEZUELA HAS BEEN AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS.

2. THE FIRST LADY WAS HER USUAL GRACEFUL AND OUTGOING SELF AND SHE CAPTIVATED ALL HEARTS IN CARACAS. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT NOT ONLY DID SHE DEEPLY IMPRESS HER OFFICIAL HOSTS FROM PRESIDENT PEREZ ON DOWN BUT IT WAS LIKEWISE EQUALLY EVIDENT THAT SHE EXERTED IMMENSE POPULAR APPEAL ON THE AVERAGE VENEZUELAN CITIZEN IN THE STREET. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN SHE

EMERGED FROM THE CONGRESS FOLLOWING THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT PEREZ, THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS OVATION FROM THE CROWD; AND WHEN I HAD THE HONOR OF ESCORTING THE FIRST LADY TO THE MILITARY PARADE YESTERDAY, THE THRONG IN THE GRANDSTANDS ROSE TO ITS FEET AND EVERYONE HEARTILY  
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APPLAUDED. THESE MANIFESTATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP WERE GENUINE

AND AT TIMES WE ALMOST HAD A FEAR THAT MRS. NIXON'S POPULARITY WOULD OVERSHADOW THAT OF THE NEW PRESIDENT AND #8 \*84 5 )-\$6. THERE WAS COMPLETE AND FRIENDLY COVERAGE BY ALL NEWS MEDIA BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN, INCLUDING THE VERY LARGE AMERICAN PRESS CORPS.

3. WHEN THE FIRST LADY CALLED YESTERDAY EVENING ON PRESIDENT AND MRS. PEREZ, THE NEW PRESIDENT WAS EXCEEDINGLY PLEASED WHEN SHE DELIVERED YOUR LETTER, WHICH I PROMPTLY TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH. MRS. NIXON TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY, SPEAKING IN YOUR NAME, TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT BOTH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND HIS LADY COULD MAKE A VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

4. IN SUM, MRS. NIXON'S VISIT WAS AN IMMENSE SUCCESS AND WE ARE INDEBTED TO HER AND TO YOU FOR HAVING GIVEN THE UNITED STATES THIS UNIQUE REPRESENTATION FOR THE INAUGURATION OF VENEZUELA'S NEW PRESIDENT. AS MRS. NIXON TOLD BOTH OUTGOING PRESIDENT CALDERA AND INCOMING PRESIDENT PEREZ, "THE PRESIDENT HAS SHOWN THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO THIS INAUGURATION AND TO U.S. FRIENDSHIP FOR VENEZUELA BY SENDING HIS DEAREST REPRESENTATIVE--MYSELF."  
MCCLINTOCK

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MR. SARROS, S/S-O.

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